

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T GENEVA 02758

EXDIS

USSALTTWO
E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: WARNKE/EARLE - SEMENOV/SHCHUKIN PRIVATE MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 1978 (SALT TWO 1628)

1. NEW TYPES OF ICBMS: AT FEBRUARY 21 PRIVATE MEETING
SEMENOV SAID NEW TYPE OF ICBM IN PROTOCOL ARTICLE II
WOULD BE DEFINED AS "ANY ICBM WHICH HAD ITS EXTERNALLY
OBSERVABLE DIMENSIONS CHANGED, OR HAD THE NUMBER OF ITS
PROPULSION STAGES CHANGED, OR ITS LAUNCH-WEIGHT OR THROW-
WEIGHT INCREASED, OR HAD BEEN CHANGED BY ANY COMBINATION
OF THE ABOVE."

2. SEMENOV CRITICIZED US FEBRUARY 16 PLENARY STATEMENT
AS AIMED AT US ADVANTAGE AND SHOWING NO PROGRESS ON NEW
TYPES ISSUE. HE RECOUNTED AT LENGTH HOW SOVIET POSITION
PROGRESSIVELY EXPANDED TO BAN (A) MIRVED ICBMS, (B)
MRVED ICBMS, (C) SINGLE RV ICBMS WITH ONE EXCEPTION, AND
(D) SELF-CONTAINED DISPENSING MECHANISMS OR OTHER
APPROPRIATE DEVICES. SEMENOV ALSO INVOKED MODERNIZATION
AND REPLACEMENT RIGHT IN ARTICLE X AND NEED TO REPLACE
AGING SYSTEMS. WARNKE DISPUTED SUGGESTION THAT U.S.
SOUGHT ADVANTAGE IN NEW TYPES BAN AND POINTED OUT THAT
QUESTION WAS NOT WHETHER TO CONSTRAIN MODERNIZATION --

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NEW SOVIET PROPOSAL ACCEPTED THIS PRINCIPLE -- BUT WHAT
WAS BEST WAY TO DO IT. U.S. WOULD STUDY SOVIET PROPOSAL
BUT NEW TYPES EVIDENTLY REMAINED MAJOR ISSUE BETWEEN
SIDES.

3. SALT THREE PRINCIPLES: IN DISCUSSION OF NEW SOVIET
LANGUAGE, WARNKE SAID U.S. AGREED THERE SHOULD NOT BE

SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, AND SOUGHT AGREED AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION. HE SAID THERE WAS NO CHANCE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON FBS WITHOUT NEGOTIATIONS ON SOVIET THEATRE FORCES OF COMPARABLE RANGE AND CAPABILITY. SEMENOV DENIED THAT SOVIET POSITION REQUIRED FBS REDUCTIONS AS PRECONDITION TO STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTIONS IN SALT THREE -- RATHER, "ALL FACTORS" SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. SEMENOV EXPLAINED THAT SOVIET PROPOSED REDUCTIONS IN STRATEGIC WARHEADS AGGREGATE WAS NOT APPLICABLE TO FBS WARHEADS, AND REFERRED TO JCS POSTURE STATEMENT IN CONTEXT OF SOVIET PROPOSAL. HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE REFERENCE TO CARRIER-BASED AIRCRAFT WAS MEANT TO INCLUDE ONLY THOSE IN THE VICINITY OF SOVIET TERRITORY.

4. DATA BASE: I CONFIRMED 1054 AND 656 NUMBERS FOR US ICBM AND SLBM LAUNCHERS. I SAID SOVIET NUMBERS FOR THESE CATEGORIES WERE UNDER REVIEW AND I WOULD RETURN TO THEM SOON. EARLE

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